

Resolution No.:	<u>15-905</u>
Introduced:	<u>February 15, 2005</u>
Adopted:	<u>March 1, 2005</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Health and Human Services and Management and Fiscal Policy Committees

SUBJECT: Resolution to establish an application and review process for County Council grants for health and human services and community development activities

Background

1. For several years, the County Council has awarded County grant funds on a discretionary basis to support non-profit organizations that provide health and human services and community development activities.
2. In FY 05, the County Council appropriated \$3.3 million in County funds for discretionary grants. Of this total, \$1.8 million had been recommended by the County Executive as discretionary grants, and \$1.5 million had been recommended by the County Council.
3. In previous years, these discretionary grants have not gone through a formal or independent application and review process. An Office of Legislative Oversight report (OLO Report 2005-1) found that the County Executive's discretionary grant process was informal and relied on flexibility in all phases of application, review, and award. Similarly, the County Council has conducted a flexible process that solicits applications informally, compiles information submitted by Councilmembers about the proposals, and relies on flexibility in award decisions.
4. The Health and Human Services and Management and Fiscal Policy Committees held a series of worksessions between July, 2004 and February, 2005 to discuss the Council's process for awarding grants. The Committees expressed interest in changing the Council's process to be more understandable to the community and provide a more helpful basis for decision-making by Councilmembers. The Committees discussed possible approaches to standardize the application process and provide additional information and evaluation of proposals.
5. On February 3, 2005, the joint Committees recommended that the Council adopt a process for the FY 06 Operating Budget that would include publicity for applications, an informational forum, a standard application form, and a panel review process.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

For the FY 06 Operating Budget, the County Council will solicit applications for grants to support health and human services and community development activities. Applicants must submit a standard County Council grant application form by the stated deadline.

Every organization that desires funding in the FY 06 Operating Budget and has not undergone a competitive review panel process in the Executive branch must submit an application to the County Council. This includes organizations that are recommended for discretionary grant funding in the County Executive's recommended operating budget as Private Agency Requests.


If an organization applied for a competitive grant and was not recommended by the County Executive to receive funding, it may apply for a grant from the Council. The organization must submit the standard County Council grant application form. The Council will receive information about these organizations from the reports of the previous competitive review process.

Any Councilmember may nominate an organization to be reviewed by a community panel to be appointed by the County Council. The Council may solicit volunteers for the panel from the panels that review Community Service Grants and Community Development Block Grant applications. Volunteers may also come from other advisory boards and commissions.

The community panel must prepare a report that evaluates the relative merits of the proposals. The Council will also receive copies of the reports from the Community Service Grant and Community Development Block Grant panels' previous review efforts. Among these documents, the Council will receive evaluative information about all grant applications nominated by Councilmembers.

The panels' reports will be advisory, and Councilmembers are not bound by their recommendations. Councilmembers may nominate entities for consideration on the Council's operating budget reconciliation list. If a Councilmember nominates an entity that did not meet the application deadline, the entity can be placed on the reconciliation list with the approval of five Councilmembers.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Elda M. Dodson, CMC
Acting Clerk of the Council